



STEM Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

October 31, 2013
Eden Hill Medical Center
Dover, Delaware
4:00-6:00 p.m.

Attendance:

In Person: Teri Quinn Gray, Judson Wagner, Sheri Densler, Nouredine Melickechi, Donna Johnson, Laurel Lichty, Vera Holmes (Ashland, Delaware), Daryl Love (Ashland, Kentucky), April McCrae

On the phone: Margaret Aitken, Mary Kate McLaughlin, George Reissig, Secretary McMahon, Rita Vasta.

Meeting Focus/Agenda:

To Discuss the Ashland STEM Education Proposal and Next Steps regarding the STEM Council's involvement with the program—if any—moving forward.

Teri Quinn Gray began by asking Daryl Jones to share the goal/intention behind the proposed STEM award program. Daryl Responded with the following thoughts:

- To celebrate STEM and STEM teaching
- To bring an awareness of STEM to the teaching community and the community at large
- To highlight and hold teachers as models in the state/district
 - How do you leverage these teacher models as a guiding force of the STEM council's goals? This is an opportunity to discuss this question and to really move the STEM Council's message forward with a positive initiative.
- To build a forum for sharing with others
 - Ideas such as a symposium or workshops—online forums and nominee publications were shared during this part of the conversation.

Laurel Lichty asked if Daryl Jones would clarify Ashland's role in the administration of this award program, if it were approved and became a part of Delaware's STEM messaging moving forward. The following was shared:

- Ashland is prepared to put money behind this project but does not have the resources available to administer the award in DE.
- Ashland has a small staff—is willing to have someone sit on the award development committee and to help guide recognition reception plan..etc. will only assist with guidance only, we would do the legwork.
- Ashland has a website that they are willing to modify for nomination and application collection
- Advertising, application vetting, presentation of the award etc is the responsibility of the STEM Council and/or DDOE.



When those on the phone were asked if they had any comments/questions—Mary Kate McLaughlin stated that this sounded similar to the TOY award and that one thing that TOY did that could be considered as a part of this administration was to have NOMINEES work as part of the advisory council for the guiding committee for the award/recognition program. All agreed that this should be remembered as an option.

Noureddine stated that it would be useful if applicant products could be published for others to see, even if the applicants did not win—thus producing a “GOOD STUFF IN STEM” highlight and recognizing the non-winners in a way that made them “winners” in their own right.

Teri Gray moved forward and asked that the group consider roles necessary to drive this initiative forward:

1. Program manager: Administrative
2. Evaluator: Institute of Higher Education Support
3. Development and Design of Award: STEM Committee Workgroup(s)—Representation from Ashland
4. Recognition Ceremony/program/symposium or whatever it becomes: STEM Committee Workgroup(s)—Representation and help from Ashland

Comments:

- Noureddine: Be sure the program is made to be sustainable—not a one off deal
- Evaluation needs to ensure that the program aligns with STEM Council goals and Ashland principles.
- Daryl asked what STEM Council goals were at this point. Teri shared:
 - Expand STEM literacy for STEM focused as well as non-STEM focused students
 - Expand # of students pursuing STEM degrees beyond HS (specific focus Women and Minorities)
 - Help build and maintain a STEM capable workforce in DE
- Daryl stated that these goals were in direct alignment with Ashland’s focus.
- Teri asked directly whether there would be extra money for the recognition ceremony for winning teachers—Daryl stated that his company had budgeted approximately \$40,000 (\$30,000 in prize money and \$10,000 for recognition etc) for this project. The budget is negotiable based upon plans moving forward.
- **Side note from Daryl Love RE: business realm and STEM education:**
 - Look for and deliver a single message for STEM volunteerism in the state and have companies jump on board for an easy win. Get ahead of the wave. To this Teri asked Daryl to consider speaking with her and Jud after the meeting to discuss this very subject and to help further develop the idea.



Jud Wagner voiced a concern regarding other valued award programs in the state (i.e. Presidential Awards for Math and Science). The group acknowledged an overlap and concluded that it was important that THIS award be different enough to not step on the valued place of the PAEMST award while still illustrating and highlighting the value of STEM. Also noted lessons to be learned from other awards:

- Don't make application too cumbersome
- Don't overlap with award ceremony timing
- Be sure to create strong value for the non-winning nominees

Donna Johnson asked about messaging and how this award would be presented to the public schools and charters. She also asked whether this award would be made available to private and parochial schools—as there has been private school representation on the STEM council in the past.

- Upon hearing about the private school inclusion—Daryl Jones raised a concern, as Ashland does not usually provide funds for private/parochial school programming. This may be an issue in terms of the award and funding if the private schools were included. All involved agreed to look into the issue further.

Teri Gray asked if the group felt that a timeline that began in November and ended with awards being given in May or June of 2014 was “Do-able?”

The response was timid. Most attendees presented that a longer timeline would be more amenable. In the end it was decided that an award development timeline of November through February would be appropriate with the nomination/application phase opening in March of 2014. The application deadline would close in June with judging occurring over the summer of 2014 and the award presentation being in Mid-August 2014 to build on the beginning of the school year buzz/energy.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:02 P.M.